

Words of Support for the Tribal Adoption Parity Act

“This legislation gives tribal governments the same benefits as other governments to designate children as having special needs and provide the same access for financial support to those that are opening up their homes to nurture special native youth. NCAI strongly supports this bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation.”

- ***Jacqueline Pata, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)***

“Tribal child welfare agencies and court systems do the hard work of helping Native children find permanent homes each and every day. For those children that cannot be returned to their birth parents tribes are looking for families that can provide a permanent home, which includes adoptive homes. Many of these Native children may have special needs and the families that are most likely to adopt them live in the child’s tribal community. The Tribal Adoption Parity Act ensures that Native families that adopt through their local tribal court will have the same access to financial support in the adoption tax credit that other families have.”

- ***Sarah Kastelic, Executive Director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)***

“We are pleased to once again support this measure. It is an important effort to both encourage adoptions from foster care and at the same time recognize and extend these benefits to tribal communities and families in a policy area we sometimes fall short on.”

- ***John Sciamanna, Vice President of Public Policy, Child Welfare League of America***

“For many years, the North American Council on Adoptable Children has seen firsthand how the adoption tax credit has helped families adopting children who have been determined by the state to have special needs. The credit both encourages adoption and provides support to families whose children have experienced significant trauma and loss. It’s about time to ensure that children designated as special needs by tribes have the same opportunity as other children. We strongly endorse the Tribal Adoption Parity Act, and believe it will increase children’s chances of being adopted by a loving, supported family.”

- ***Mary Boo, Executive Director of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)***

“VFA believes that families need all of the support they can get. Too often families open their hearts and their homes to children that have been traumatized, lingered in foster care, or have cultural needs that need to be met. The Adoption Tax Credit is designed to support families, and it should be available to every American family.”

- ***Schylar Baber, Director of Voice for Adoption (VFA)***

“The Donaldson Adoption Institute applauds efforts to ensure that every child is able to grow up in a family that is supported in meeting their unique needs. Strong families build strong communities and this makes a better world for all of us.”

- ***April Dinwoodie, Chief Executive of the Donaldson Adoption Institute***

“The American Academy of Adoption Attorneys strongly supports and works to bring about change to policies and laws that encourage and allow all children to have the ability to grow up in a loving family, and the Adoption Tax Credit is an important tool toward that goal by reducing the financial impact of the adoption process.”

- ***Denise M. Bierly, Director of Adoption and Past President of the [American Academy of Adoption Attorneys](#)***